

A RHODE ISLAND STATION FOR LUMINOUS MOSS: Owing to the apparent scarcity of *Schistostega pennata*, it seems worthwhile to record a station for it in Rhode Island. The moss occurs in a graphite mine in the town of South Kingstown, Washington County.

The Indians reportedly first worked this vein of graphite and called the area Cajoot. As late as the 1890's graphite was mined there, and the *Schistostega* has come in since then. In 1956 when David Nichols was surveying the Narragansett Pier, R.I. quadrangle for a surface geology map, his father, Reginald Nichols, who accompanied him, noted the glowing moss and took color photographs of it.

The moss grows in a north-facing tunnel located part way down the twenty-foot mine pit. It does not grow at the very mouth of this tunnel but begins at about six feet in and extends further another yard. At no time between May and September when I observed did the sun's direct ray fall on the moss habitat; hence probably it does not at any other time. *Schistostega* grows only on the floor of this cavern, not ascending the walls, and it seems more partial to flat, moist chunks of graphite than to the crumbled earth between them. Its glow at this particular site is best viewed at a forty-five degree angle with some variation either way.

Despite traffic in the form of youngsters exploring the abandoned mine, the moss survives although in less quantity than when first seen in 1956. A specimen has been deposited at the University of Rhode Island Herbarium by Dr. Richard Hauke of the Botany Department.

RICHARD L. CHAMPLIN
JAMESTOWN
RHODE ISLAND 02835